

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8080

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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NOFORN

EO 11652 GDS

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SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE YUAN CANDIDATE KUO YU-HSIN FILES ELECTION
SUIT

REF: 75 TAIPEI 8135

1. ACCORDING TO JANUARY 7 LIEN HO PAO, KUO YU-HSIN (6753/7183/2450), YOUNG CHINA PARTY (YCP) CANDIDATE FROM TAIWAN FIRST DISTRICT WHO WAS DEFEATED IN THE DECEMBER LEGISLATIVE YUAN (LY) ELECTIONS, ON JANUARY 6 FILES AN ELECTION SUIT IN THE TAIWAN HIGH COURT DEMANDING THAT THE ELECTION OF AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FROM THE SAME DISTRICT, LIN JUNG-SAN (2651/2837/0005), BE DECLARED NULL AND VOID. REPORTEDLY, THE CASE WILL BE HEARD BY THE HIGH COURT'S "COURT SOLELY FOR HANDLING ELECTION SUITS." ACCORDING TO THE LIEN HO PAO, KUO, IN HIS SUIT, CLAIMED THAT LIN BOUGHT VOTES OPENLY AND THAT THE TABULATION OF ELECTION RESULTS WAS INCORRECT.

2. COMMENT: IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS KUO AND OTHER
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OPPOSITIONISTS HAVE CHARGED THAT KMT PRESSURE WAS

EXERTED TO ELECT LIN (WHO, ACCORDING TO INDEPENDENT LY MEMBER KANG NING-HSIANG, 1660/1380/4382, IS FIRMLY IN THE KMT CAMP ALTHOUGH HE RAN AS AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE) AT KUO'S EXPENSE.THESE OPPOSITIONISTS ALSO ASSERT THAT IN KUO'S (AS WELL AS OTHER DISTRICTS CASES OF VOTE BUYING, STUFFING BALLOT BOXES, INVALIDATING VOTES, ETC. OCCURRED. SUCH VIOLATIONS ON THE LOCALLEVEL, THEY CLAIM, WERE WIDESPREAD, BUT THEIR SCALE IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE.

3. WITH SPECIFIC REGARD TO KUO'S CONTEST, EMBOFF WHO WATCHED TV COVERAGE OF ELECTION RESULTS NOTED THAT APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES BEFORE THE CONCLUSION OF THE BROADCAST KUO AND LIN WERE ALMOST EVENLY MATCHED, WITH KUO LEADING BY SOME 500 VOTES. FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER LIN'S VOTE COUNT HAD DOUBLED, FROM SOME 60,000 TO 120,000. DURING THE SAME TIME PERIOD KUO'S VOTE COUNT INCREASED BY ONLY 5000 VOTES. WHILE THE DRAMATIC RISE IN LIN'S VOTE COUNT MAY BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO LATE ELECTION RETURNS FROM AREAS IN THE DISTRICT WHICH PREDOMINANTLY SUPPORTED LIN, THE RAPIDITY OF THE INCREASE IN THE LAST HOUR OF THE TELEVIZED ELECTION RETURNS RAISED EYEBROWS AMONG INFORMED VIEWERS.

4. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFFS, KUO ASSERTED THAT AFTER THE ELECTIONS, ON THE EVENINGS OF DECEMBER 22 AND 23, HE WENT OUT INTO THE STREETS OF ILAN TO THANK THE PEOPLE FOR GIVING HIM SUPPORT. HE AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT MANY THOUSANDS OF SUPPORTERS GREETED HIM, AND HE CLAIMS THAT THE GROG WAS SUFFICIENTLY ALARMED TO POST ARMED SECURITY FORCES IN ILAN ON THOSE EVENINGS.

5. GIVEN KUO'S POPULARITY IN ILAN AND HIS REPURTATION AS A LEADER IN TAIWANESE OPPOSITON CIRCLES, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT POSSIBLE THAT KUO WOULD HAVE WON A SEAT FROM THE FIRST DISTRICT (WHICH INCLUDES ILAN) HAD THE ELECTIONS BEEN COMPLETELY HONEST. FOR THESE REASONS, THE KMT WOULD HAVE HAD A STRONG MOTIVE FOR BRINGING ABOUT KUO'S DEFEAT AND FOR SUPPORTING LIN AS AN INDEPENDENT (A COMMON KMT TACTIC). UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND GIVEN THE GROG'S VESTED INTEREST IN USING THE ELECTIONS AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SUCCESS OF THE DEMOCRATIC

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SYSTEM ON TAIWAN, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE COURT WILL FIND IN KUO'S FAVOR.. NONETHELESS, THE ACCOUNTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS, IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THEY ARE MADE PUBLIC, SHOULD PROVE TO BE INTERESTING AND POSSIBLY NELIGHTENING. POPPLE

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